

## A Concurrent Resolution

**WHEREAS**, with deep appreciation, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly honor, on behalf of all South Carolinians, the great sacrifice that the men and women of South Carolina law enforcement make for the safety and protection so richly enjoyed in this State; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Colleton County at Williams on August 5, 1933, South Carolina Highway Patrolman Ben Wesley Strickland graduated from St. George High School in 1951; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1953 to 1955, he served in the United States Army with distinction and attained the rank of staff sergeant; and

**WHEREAS**, before his appointment to the South Carolina Highway Patrol, Ben Strickland served as a policeman in St. George from 1957 to 1958; and

**WHEREAS**, he began his career with the Highway Patrol on February 2, 1958, and was assigned to the Columbia area following his successful completion of Patrol School; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1959, he was assigned to the Batesburg area and was promoted to patrolman first class on June 28, 1964; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 31, 1974, while Patrolman Strickland was on patrol in Lexington County, he stopped a vehicle for speeding on Interstate 20 near the rest area at mile marker 49 and arrested the driver of the vehicle for driving with a suspended license; and

**WHEREAS**, although another person at the scene shot him with a shotgun as he was getting out of his vehicle, Patrolman Strickland was able to return fire, wound his assailant, and radio that he had been shot before he succumbed to the injuries he had sustained in the line of duty; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no greater or braver sacrifice that can be made than to lay down one's life in the service of others; Trooper Strickland's life of valor will not be forgotten by the grateful citizens of this State; and

**WHEREAS**, Ben Strickland was married to his beloved Bobbie Jean McClure Strickland, and he was the proud father of two fine sons, Steven and David; and

**WHEREAS**, he was a member of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Lexington county Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Batesburg-Leesville Lions Club, and the Smoaks Baptist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper for the South Carolina General Assembly to remember the life and sacrifice of State Highway Patrolman First Class Ben Wesley Strickland by erecting signs along Interstate Highway 20 that pay tribute to his life and legacy.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly request that the Department of Transportation to erect appropriate markers or signs along the east and west bound lanes of Interstate Highway 20 at mile marker 49 that contain the words "SCHP Patrolman Ben W. Strickland Memorial Highway".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Transportation.

## Dedication Ceremony

### Patrolman Ben W. Strickland Memorial Highway



**I-20 Rest Area, Westbound**

**Mile Marker 49**

**Lexington, South Carolina**

**Thursday, May 31, 2012**

**2:00 p.m.**



### ***Patrolman Ben W. Strickland E.O.W. May 31, 1974***

South Carolina Highway Patrolman First Class Ben W. Strickland was born in Colleton County and reared in St. George where he graduated high school. He was married to Mrs. Bobbie Strickland and had two sons, Steven and David Strickland. He was a United States Army veteran and served as a St. George police officer prior to joining the Highway Patrol. He was stationed in Lexington County and became a member of the Batesburg community. A 16-year veteran of the Highway Patrol at the time of his death, he was taken from our presence on May 31, 1974.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol humbly reflects upon the life and sacrifice of Patrolman Ben W. Strickland. His memory and legacy will forever be etched in our hearts and history. Patrolman Strickland was a well-respected and well-remembered reflection of the law enforcement profession at its best. We, the members of the South Carolina Highway Patrol, join his family, friends, neighbors, and citizens of Lexington County in dedicating this section of Interstate 20 to his memory.

***“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27***

## **Program**

Welcome	Major Marc S. Wright South Carolina Highway Patrol
Opening Prayer	Pastor Ron Kenyon SC Law Enforcement Assistance Program
Presenting the Colors	South Carolina Highway Patrol Honor Guard
Remarks	The Honorable Leroy Smith Director, South Carolina Department of Public Safety  Colonel Mike Oliver Commander, SC Highway Patrol
Reading of the Resolution	The Honorable John M. “Jake” Knotts, Jr. SC State Senator, District #23
Honoring a Fellow Officer	Retired Assistant Sheriff A. Lewis McCarty Lexington County Sheriff’s Office
Unveiling of the Sign	Ms. Bobbie M. Strickland
Final Comments	Major Marc S. Wright
Retiring of the Colors	South Carolina Highway Patrol Honor Guard
Closing Prayer	Pastor Ron Kenyon